

**STATE BOARD MEETING DATE**

December 8, 2008

**SUBJECT:** Consideration of Certificate Review: **Edward A. Castorani**, Case No. **C-2006-114R**

**SUBMITTED BY:** Charles Easaw, Chief Investigator, Investigative Unit, State Board of Education

**MANAGEMENT TEAM REVIEW:** November 13, 2008

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

**Edward A. Castorani** applied for a Standard Secondary Education certificate on July 7, 2008.

On a previous renewal application dated April 12, 2006, the Investigative Unit discovered his photo-copied Fingerprint Clearance Card had been altered to show an expiration date of 1/12/09. He later withdrew that application.

He was notified by the Investigative Unit that his current application required a review by the Professional Practices Advisory Committee (“the PPAC”) of the State Board of Education (“the Board”).

On October 14, 2008, the PPAC conducted a review of Mr. Castorani’s application. The following information was presented and considered by the committee:

Mr. Castorani disclosed that while in the process of purchasing a home, his financial situation was strained. He completed the coursework necessary for his English as a Second Language (ELS) endorsement. To avoid payment of the fingerprint card renewal fee, he photo-copied his old fingerprint card and altered the expiration date. He did this to immediately gain the financial benefits of an endorsement without having to wait until he had the funds to pay the renewal fee. He expressed remorse for his error in judgment. He currently holds a valid up-to-date fingerprint clearance card.

A teacher (co-worker) and a real estate agent testified on his behalf.

Mitigating factors:

- Statements by witnesses who appeared before the committee
- Letters of recommendations
- No disciplinary action taken by his employer
- Candor and remorse expressed before the committee
- The incident which gave rise to the conduct was driven by financial necessity, not deception

Aggravating factor:

- Element of deception

**BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:** ☐ INFORMATION ☒ ACTION/DESCRIBED  
**BELOW:**

That the Board accept the findings of fact, conclusions of law and recommendation of the PPAC  
and **grant** the application for certification.

**ATTACHMENTS:** YES ☒ NO ☐